

REMARKS

Presently, claims 1 to 29 are pending in the application. Claims 1 to 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the Foller WO 91/05998 patent or the Krahe GB 2,191,585 patent in view of the Pai et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,156,267. Further, claims 1 to 29 stand provisionally rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1 to 16 of co-pending application no. 10/230,527 as well as over claims 1 to 29 of Application No. 10/016,057. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and request reconsideration and reexamination of the application.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 to 29 as being obvious over Foller or Krahe in view of Pai et al. Applicants submit that none of the references teach the limitation of the diffusion restricted area mimicking the dimensions of a lumen in a device being processed as provided in the claims. Furthermore, no new matter is added by this amendment; it is described in the specification starting at page 30, line 26 and ended on page 31 at line 9. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claimed invention patentably defines over the cited references.

The Examiner has provisionally rejected claims 1 to 29 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 to 16 of co-pending Application No. 10/230,527 and claims 1 to 29 of co-pending Application No. 10/016,057. An appropriate terminal disclaimer is enclosed herewith.

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Applicants submit that the application is presently in condition for allowance and request favorable reconsideration and re-examination of the application as well as early notice of allowance of the application. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if it would speed prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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